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EXAMINER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 15

Application Number: 09/518,015
Filing Date: March 03, 2000
Appellant(s): GOTTFURCHT ET AL.

AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SIMPLE WIDEAREA NETWORK NAVIGATION
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed July 15, 2003.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 1 – 10 and 23 – 48 do not stand or fall together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) *Prior Art of Record*

6460181	Donnelly	10-2002
6388714	Schein et al.	5-2002
6418441	Call	7-2002
5911145	Arora et al.	6-1999
6476825	Croy et al.	11-2002

Heinemann, Charles, "Going from HTML to XML" Microsoft Corporation, November 5, 1998.

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

1. Claims 1, 6, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan et al (US 5,801,702) and Arora et al (US 5,911,145).

Claims 1 and 6:

Dolan teaches a software program (abstract). All software programs require a computer readable storage medium containing executable computer program instructions. Such computer instructions operate on a digital processor. Dolan teaches providing links for accessing a sister site that permits simplified navigation (fig. 8c; col. 18, lines 18 – 35). Any page accessible throughout the tree of the hierarchy is a sister page. Further, the creating of links for accessing sites creates a type of access to an associated web page. This is a type of sister site. Dolan teaches serving pages from the sister site responsive to actuation of the link on the web page (fig. 8c; col. 18, lines 18 – 35). When any sister page is selected, web pages are opened. These web pages are serving pages responsive to the actuation of the link. Dolan fails to teach a specific

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web page for providing links to sister sites or any other site. Dolan does suggest the need for providing a specific link to a sister site by providing a list of potential sites. Further, pages higher up in the hierarchy do suggest the potential for storing multiple pages within a site.

Arora teaches a web site containing links to various sister sites along with potential outside sites (fig. 4, #470, #472). Arora teaches providing a link to a sister site (fig. 43; col. 14, lines 35 – 40). Arora mentions linking to a next sibling or a previous linking. This demonstrates accessing various sister sites. Furthermore, adding links provides a simplified navigation interface for the web page by the sister site. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the web site containing links taught by Arora with the sister sites responsive to the actuation of links disclosed by Dolan. Doing so allows the user including the user not familiar with computer terminology to navigate to different links within the web site in a timesaving fashion using graphics that are familiar to the layperson.

Claim 25:

Dolan and Arora teach the rationale for accessing a sister site using the Internet in rejected claim 1.

2. Claims 2, 7, 43, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan and Arora as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Schein et al. (US 6,388,714).

Claims 2 and 7:

Dolan fails to teach a method for entering alphanumeric indications associated with the navigation option. Arora teaches a method where a user can enter alphanumeric indications, in the form of a character string, associated with a URL (fig. 43). The URL is a type of navigation option. The naming of a node that uses the properties of a window is a method wherein the processor accepts an alphanumeric indication of a navigation option. Arora teaches a matrix that corresponds with a navigation option (fig. 40; col. 14, lines 5 – 23). The various cells within the matrix are used for displaying a portion of the corresponding web page. Links to accessing a full screen version of the said web page can be provided. This is a method where a matrix is equipped with a navigation option. Links for accessing associated sites or sister sites creates a simplified navigation method. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine entering alphanumeric indicators taught by Arora with the sister sites responsive to the actuation or initiation of links disclosed by Dolan. Doing so allows the user, including the user not familiar with computer terminology, to personally customize names for potential links.

While Dolan and Arora teach various type of navigation GUIs using the web, Dolan and Arora fail to teach a simplified navigation interface employing a multi-layered matrix. Schein teaches a simplified navigation interface that employs a multi-layered matrix (fig. 14c – 14d). This GUI also demonstrates the navigation option displayed by the navigation interface. Further, Schein demonstrates the display of alphanumeric text to describe various navigation options (fig. 14c – 14d). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the simplified

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navigation interface employing a multi-layered matrix taught by Schein with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the user to navigate various audio/visual-programming options using a user-friendly method that requires a minimum amount of additional instruction.

Claims 43 and 44:

While Dolan and Arora teach various type of navigation GUIs using the web, Dolan and Arora fail to teach a simplified navigation interface that includes an email form. Schein teaches a simplified navigation interface that includes an email form (fig. 15c). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the simplified navigation interface that includes an email form taught by Schein with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the user to access personal messages using a method that requires a minimum amount of additional instruction.

3. Claims 3 – 5 and 8 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan and Arora as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Charles Heinemann, "Going from HTML to XML", Microsoft Corporation and Call (US 6,418,441).

Claims 3 and 8:

Dolan and Arora fail to disclose transcoding, formatting, or cascading XML, DTD, HTML, etc. Heinemann teaches converting HTML pages to XML (p. 2). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the processing and transcoding of markup language suggested or taught by Heinemann

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with the method for making sister sites responsive to the actuation of links disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the user to transcode various markup languages including HTML into a universal form that is more universal such as XML.

Dolan, Arora, and Heinemann fail to teach applying a DTD to XML. Call teaches applying a DTD to XML (col. 25; lines 10 – 20). Call further teaches that XML provides metadata capabilities that divide information into a hierarchical structure (col. 25, lines 10 – 20). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the applying a DTD to XML taught by Call with the method for making sister sites responsive to the actuation of links disclosed by Dolan, Arora, and Heinemann. Doing so provides a standard method for facilitating the definition and validation of data structures.

Claims 4 and 9:

Call teaches formatting the XML into XSL (col. 24; lines 10 – 30). Call teaches transforming the formatted page into one of extensible HTML and HTML (col. 24; lines 10 – 30).

Claims 5 and 10:

Call teaches applying a cascading style sheet (CSS) to the XML page (col. 24; lines 10 – 30).

4. Claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan and Arora as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Croy et al. (US 6,476,875).

Claims 23 and 26:

Dolan teaches software (abstract). All software requires a computer readable medium. Dolan and Arora fail to teach displaying the navigation interface on a television set wherein the television set has a remote control. Croy teaches displaying the navigation interface on a television set, the television set having a remote control (fig. 1, #100). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine displaying the navigation interface on a television set, the television set having a remote control taught by Croy with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to make selections without actually making a physical adjustment using controls physically connected to the television itself.

Claims 24 and 27:

Dolan teaches software (abstract). All software requires a computer readable medium. Dolan and Arora fail to teach displaying the simplified navigation interface on a portable wireless device. Croy teaches displaying the simplified navigation interface on a portable wireless device (fig. 3b – 3c). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the displaying the simplified navigation interface on a portable wireless device taught by Croy with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so enables the user to make selections from remote locations.

5. Claims 28 – 38, 40 – 42, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan and Arora as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Donnelly (US 6,460,181).

Claim 28:

While Dolan and Arora suggest sister sites that are servers on a network by teaching sister sites, Dolan and Arora fail to teach sister sites that are also network servers. Donnelly teaches a sister site being a server on a network (col. 9, lines 58 – 67). Web sites typically originate at servers on a network. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the sister site corresponding to a server on a network taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to make appropriate selections almost instantaneously using a minimum number of keystrokes or mouse clicks.

Claims 29 and 30:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach a web page containing commercial content. Donnelly teaches a web page containing commercial content (col. 4, lines 50 - 63). Advertising links provide commercial content. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the displaying the web page containing commercial content taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows advertisers to make announcements on user viewable web pages.

Claims 31 and 32:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach displaying the navigation interface via a computer system. Donnelly teaches displaying the navigation interface via a computer system (col. 9, lines 58 – 67). The GUI provides a computerized navigation interface. It would

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have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine displaying the navigation interface via a computer system taught by Donnelly with the web page sister sites disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows users to access larger web sites.

Claims 33 and 34:

Donnelly teaches providing a second web page associated with the sister site (col. 4, lines 57 - 63). Donnelly teaches providing the simplified navigation interface for the second web page by the sister site (col. 4, lines 57 - 63). The EPG provides a simplified navigation database for accessing web pages by the sister site. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the providing a second web page associated with the sister site taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so enables the ordinary user to quickly and simply access various web pages within the web site.

Claims 35 and 36:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach a simplified navigation option that includes primary navigation options. Donnelly teaches the simplified navigation option that includes primary navigation options (col. 4, lines 57 - 63). Buttons and icons for accessing various screens and programs are considered primary navigation options. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine a simplified navigation option that includes primary navigation options taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so

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allows the ordinary user to make important selections with a minimum number of keystrokes or mouse clicks.

Claims 37 and 38:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach a web page that is publicly accessible. Donnelly teaches a web page that is publicly accessible (col. 4, lines 50 - 63). Advertising links often lead to publicly accessible web pages. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine a web page that is publicly accessible taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so enables the ordinary user to access web pages from any Internet terminal.

Claim 40:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer. Donnelly teaches displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer (col. 9, lines 58 – 67). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to use the grid-like GUI for purchasing products and services.

Claims 41 and 42:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach a simplified navigation interface that includes a search form. Donnelly teaches simplified navigation interfaces that include a search form (col. 7, lines 10 – 40). This demonstrates a method for searching available

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programs by category or time. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the simplified navigation interfaces that include a search form taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to search for categorized items using a time saving method.

Claims 47 and 48:

Dolan and Arora fail to teach a simplified navigation interface that includes a multi-layer matrix wherein each matrix layer including multiple cells. Donnelly teaches a simplified navigation interface that includes a multi-layer matrix wherein each matrix layer including multiple cells (fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the simplified navigation interface that includes a multi-layer matrix wherein each matrix layer including multiple cells taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to view various options using a grid-like table format.

6. Claims 39, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dolan, Arora, and Schein et al. (US 6,388,714) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Donnelly (US 6,460,181).

Claim 39:

Dolan, Arora, and Schein fail to teach displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer. Donnelly teaches displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer (col. 9, lines 58 – 67). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

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to combine displaying purchasing information related to at least one item via the matrix layer taught by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so allows the ordinary user to use the grid-like GUI for purchasing products and services.

Claims 45 and 46:

Dolan, Arora, and Schein fail to teach displaying a purchasing interface in response to receiving a navigation option input. Donnelly teaches displaying a purchasing interface in response to receiving a navigation option input (col. 9, lines 58 – 67). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine displaying a purchasing interface in response to receiving a navigation option input by Donnelly with the web page navigation disclosed by Dolan and Arora. Doing so enables the user to place on-line purchases.

(11) *Response to Argument*

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 1, 6, and 25 by stating that Dolan does not teach constructing pages on the World Wide Web. The Examiner responds that any reference to HTML teaches constructing pages on the World Wide Web. Further, the Applicant asserts that Dolan does not teach sister pages. The Examiner responds that Dolan teaches a hierarchy for accessing sites. The sites accessible from this hierarchy are consider sister sites.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 2 and 7 by stating that Schein neither teaches a multi-layer matrix nor an alphanumeric input. The Examiner responds by stating that a special window wherein the user selects an item is

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a type of multi-layer matrix (fig. 14c – 14d). Furthermore, the entering of a password requires the entering of an alphanumeric input.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 43 and 44 by stating that Schein fails to teach an email form. The Examiner responds by stating that Schein teaches a simplified email form (fig. 15b – 15c).

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 3 – 5 and 8 – 10 by stating that Heinemann and Call fail to teach transcoding an HTML page to an XML page. The Examiner responds by stating approximating an HTML table in XML demonstrates that HTML pages can be transcoded to XML pages.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 23, 24, 26, and 27. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 28, 31, 32, 37, and 38. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 29 and 30. The Appellant asserts that the advertising disclosed by Donnelly is not necessarily commercial content. The Examiner responds that advertising is typically used for commercial purpose. Advertising intrinsically teaches or suggests commercial content.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 33, 34, 47, and 48. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

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The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 35 and 36. The Appellant asserts that Donnelly does not discuss buttons or icons for accessing various screens or programs. The Examiner responds by stating that the EPG disclosed by Donnelly does provide buttons or icons for accessing various screens or programs. The Examiner further states that Donnelly provides a visual demonstration for accessing icons and buttons (fig. 2).

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claim 39. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 41 and 42. Appellant asserts that Donnelly does not discuss search of program information being performed in a manner that includes searching. The Examiner responds by stating that Donnelly teaches searching.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claims 45 and 46. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

The Appellant responds to the 35 USC 103 rejections of claim 40. However, the Appellant fails to provide additional support for overcoming the rejections by the Examiner.

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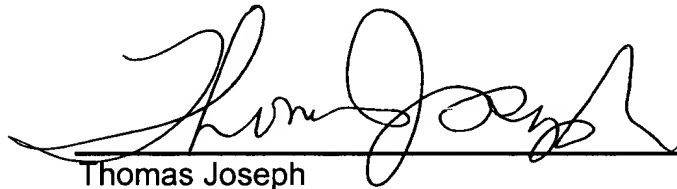
For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

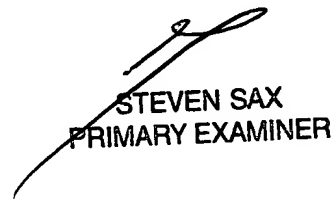
Respectfully submitted,

tjj
September 16, 2003

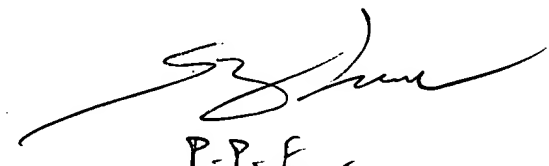
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